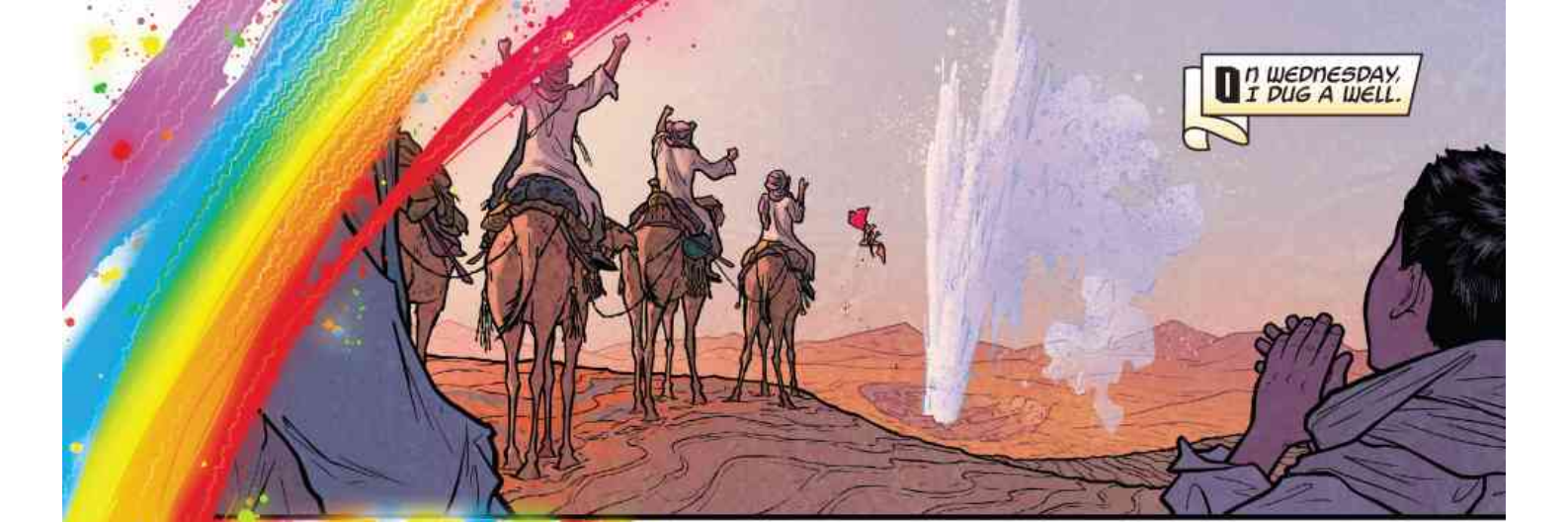




LORDS OF MIDGARD



ON WEDNESDAY,
I DUG A WELL.



THURSDAY, I
MADE FALLING
STARS.



FRIDAY, I WENT
FISHING WITH A
FRIEND.



SUNDAY, I MADE
SURE IT DIDN'T
RAIN ON HER
FUNERAL.



NOW COMES
TUESDAY.

I HATE
TUESDAYS.



EVERY OTHER TUESDAY,
I LEAVE ASGARDIA,
WHICH IS CURRENTLY
IN ORBIT AROUND
SATURN...

...AND TAKE THE
RAINBOW BRIDGE
INTO MIDTOWN
MANHATTAN.

MOST DAYS IT'S
HARD ENOUGH
BEING THOR.

BUT DAYS LIKE
TODAY, IT'S EVEN
HARDER BEING...

JANE
FOSTER.





I REALLY HATE TUESDAYS.



BERN,
SWITZERLAND.

"THERE'S NO NEED
FOR INTRODUCTIONS
AT THIS TABLE.

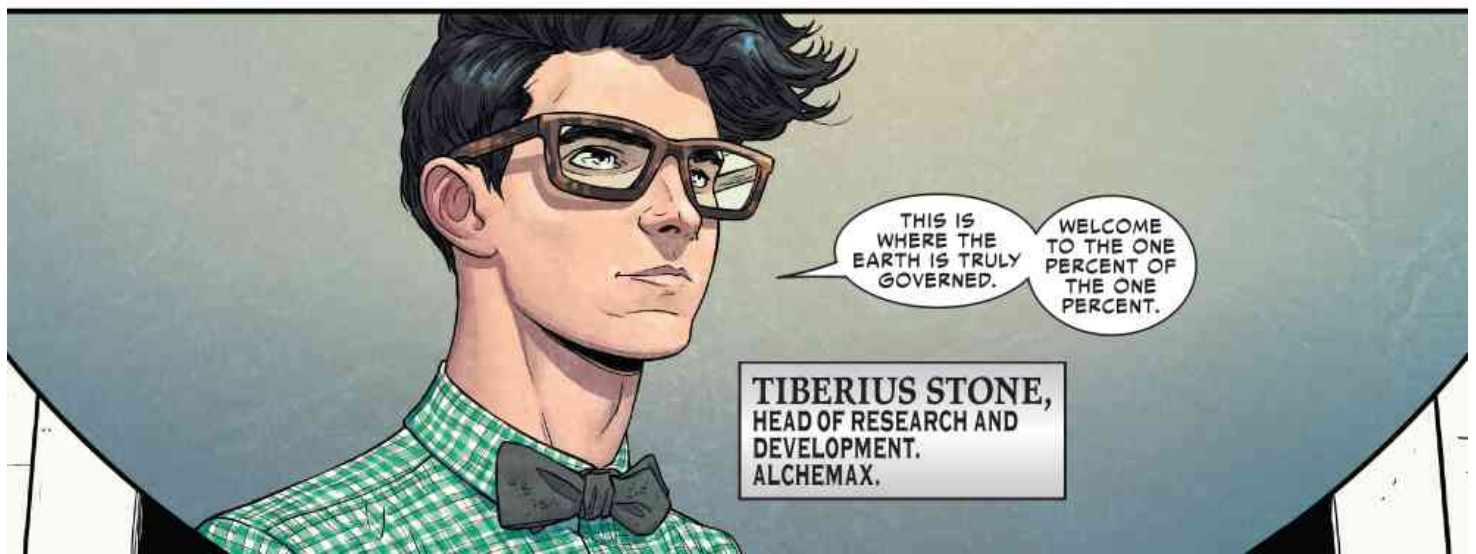
"IF YOU WEREN'T ALREADY
FAMILIAR WITH THE OTHER
PLAYERS ON THIS BOARD,
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THIS
TABLE EVEN EXISTED, LET
ALONE BE SITTING AT IT
RIGHT NOW."



STILL, TO
THOSE OF YOU
WHO ARE HERE
FOR THE FIRST
TIME, I SAY
WELCOME.

WELCOME
TO THE MOUNT
EVEREST OF
CAPITALISM.

THIS TABLE IS
WHERE ANYTHING
OF SIGNIFICANCE
THAT HAPPENS ON
THIS PLANET IS
FIRST DECIDED.



THIS IS
WHERE THE
EARTH IS TRULY
GOVERNED.

WELCOME
TO THE ONE
PERCENT OF
THE ONE
PERCENT.

TIBERIUS STONE,
HEAD OF RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT.
ALCHEMAX.



SEBASTIAN SHAW,
PRINCIPAL OWNER,
SHAW INDUSTRIES.

DARREN CROSS,
FOUNDER,
CROSS TECHNOLOGICAL
ENTERPRISES.

MEETINGS HAVE
BEEN TAKING PLACE
AT THIS TABLE FOR
MANY YEARS. LONG
BEFORE MOST OF
US WERE BORN.

THESE
MEETINGS...DON'T
HAVE A NAME. NO
RECORD OF THEM
HAS EVER EXISTED
OR EVER WILL.



THERE ARE
THOSE OUTSIDE
THIS ROOM WHO
WOULD LABEL WHAT
HAPPENS HERE AS
COLLUSION.

OF COURSE,
WE PREFER TO
THINK OF THESE
PROCEEDINGS
AS MERELY...
**PROFESSIONAL
COURTESIES.**

EZEKIEL STANE,
CEO, STANE INTERNATIONAL.

SHINGEN HARADA,
CEO, THE YASHIDA CORPORATION.



FRR'DOX,
SUPREME DIRECTOR OF
INTERSTELLAR OPERATIONS,
SHI'AR SOLUTIONS CONSOLIDATED.

**WILHELMINA
KENSINGTON,**
ACTING CEO, KILGORE ARMS.

THERE ARE
NO FRIENDS OR
ALLIES IN THIS
ROOM. ONLY
PEERS.

AS CONFIRMED
BY THE CONTENTS
OF OUR BANK
ACCOUNTS. PEERS
AND PROFESSIONAL
COURTESIES.



WILSON FISK,
PRESIDENT, FISK INDUSTRIES.

UNFORTUNATELY,
WE ARE CALLED HERE
TODAY BECAUSE ONE
AMONG US HAS OF
LATE BEEN RATHER
DISAPPOINTINGLY...

...DISCOURTEOUS.





...THEY'RE MINE!



THEN I FEAR WE HAVE A PROBLEM.

YES, YOU DO. IF ANYONE AT THIS TABLE DARES TO INTERFERE WITH MY BUSINESS...

...YOU WILL MOST DEFINITELY HAVE A PROBLEM.



THIS IS NOT A ROOM YOU WANT TO GO MAKING THREATS IN, DARIO. I PRESS TWO BUTTONS ON MY STANE PHONE, AND YOUR STOCK PRICE MAKES LIKE A GOLDEN GATE JUMPER.

AND MAYBE YOU WILL SUDDENLY FIND YOU ARE HAVING PROBLEMS WITH INTERSTELLAR CUSTOMS THAT YOU WERE NOT HAVING BEFORE.

AND MAYBE YOUR MOTHER'S SUDDENLY GETTING SHOT IN HER FACE.



YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST MAN FROM ROXXON TO SIT IN THAT CHAIR, AGGER. YOU NEEDN'T BE THE LAST.

I SUGGEST YOU MAKE AN EFFORT TO REMEMBER THAT.



AND I SUGGEST YOU GET @%*#, FISK!

ALL OF YOU! I'VE WORKED TOO DAMN HARD TO LET YOU INSECTS RIDE ON MY COATTAILS FOR ANOTHER DAMN SECOND!

IF ANYONE IN THIS ROOM WANTS A PIECE OF MY BUSINESS, THEN YOU'D BETTER BE READY TO STEP UP AND TAKE IT!

ALL RIGHT.



WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I'M TAKING YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER, MR. AGGER. CONSIDER THIS A HOSTILE TAKEOVER.

MR. HARADA, PLEASE, NOT HERE.



SILVER SAMURAI JR. I'D HONESTLY FORGOTTEN YOU EVEN EXISTED, KID. WHY DON'T YOU RUN OFF BACK TO MUTANT LAND OR WHEREVER YOU--

SORRY, WHAT WAS THAT? I WAS JUST NOTICING HOW ROXXON'S GLOBAL PIPELINE SYSTEM SEEMS TO SUDDENLY BE EXPERIENCING SOME RATHER CATASTROPHIC MECHANICAL FAILURES.

AND HOW SOMEONE IN YOUR CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS JUST ACCIDENTALLY DOWNLOADED A PARTICULARLY NASTY VIRUS.

AND OH DEAR, IT APPEARS YOUR PERSONAL CLOUD HAS JUST BEEN HACKED. THOSE ARE SOME UNFORTUNATE TAN LINES YOU'VE GOT THERE, DARIO.



YOU SONUVA...

NOW, REMIND ME AGAIN, WHERE WERE WE?

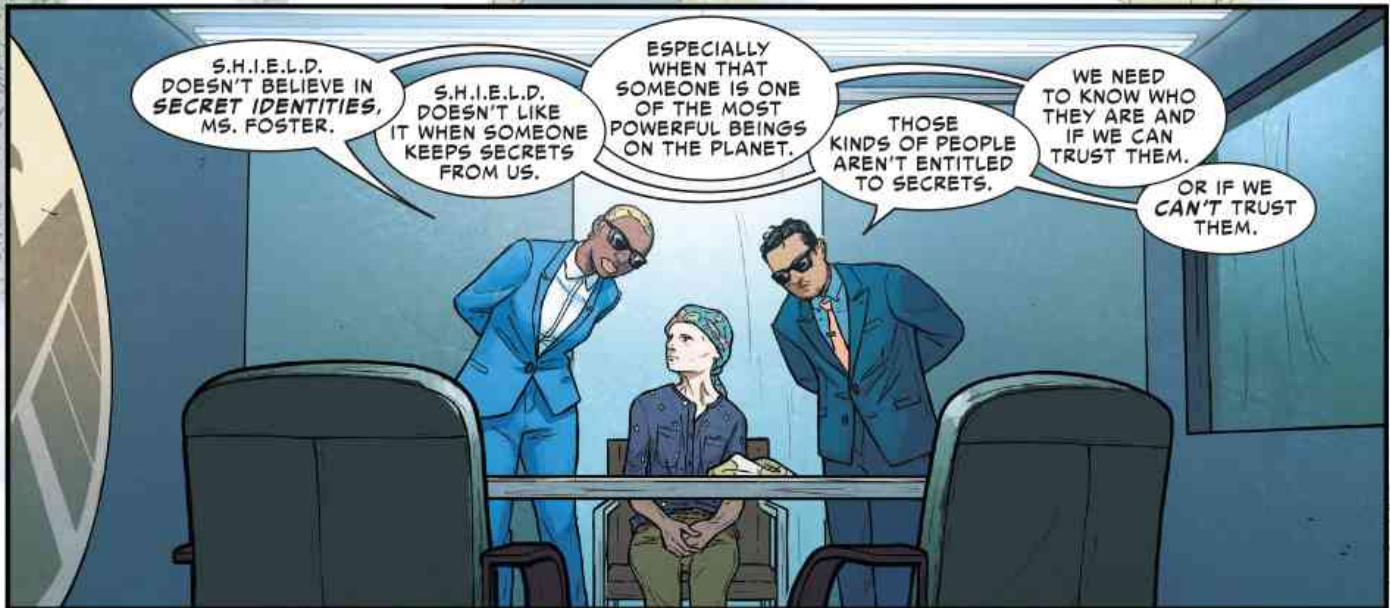
OH, RIGHT.



I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SLICE OFF YOUR HEAD.



"SO...WHAT'S THIS...UM... ABOUT THOR?"



S.H.I.E.L.D. DOESN'T BELIEVE IN SECRET IDENTITIES, MS. FOSTER.

S.H.I.E.L.D. DOESN'T LIKE IT WHEN SOMEONE KEEPS SECRETS FROM US.

ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT SOMEONE IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS ON THE PLANET.

THOSE KINDS OF PEOPLE AREN'T ENTITLED TO SECRETS.

WE NEED TO KNOW WHO THEY ARE AND IF WE CAN TRUST THEM.

OR IF WE CAN'T TRUST THEM.



S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS AN ENTIRE DIVISION DEVOTED TO UNCOVERING SECRET IDENTITIES.

AND WE'RE IT.

WE KNEW TONY STARK WAS IRON MAN BEFORE HIS GIRLFRIEND DID.

WE KNEW SHE-HULK WAS SOME TWO-BIT LAWYER.

WE KNEW DOCTOR STRANGE WAS...DOCTOR STRANGE.

AND WE KNEW THAT THE BEARDED THOR...ONCE PRETENDED TO BE A DOCTOR CALLED DONALD BLAKE.

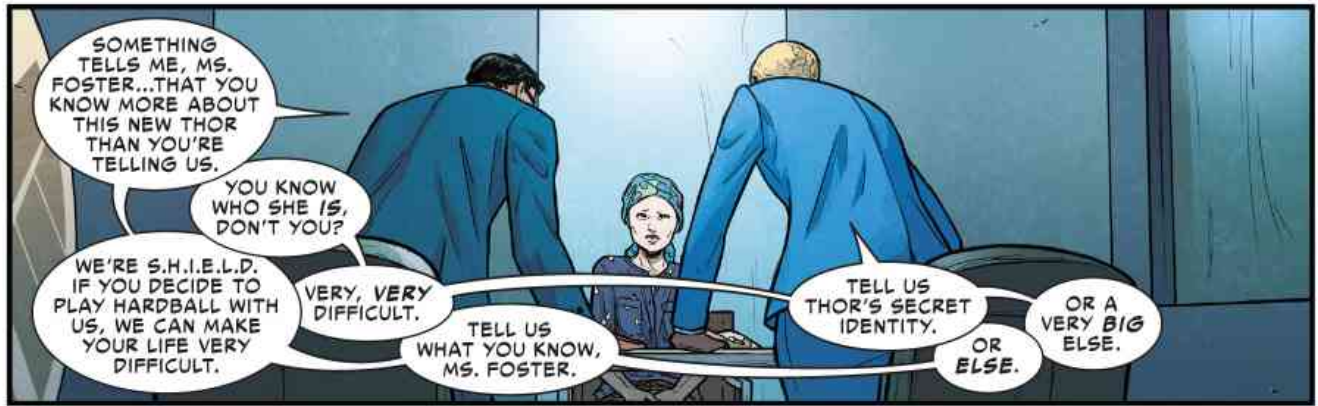


DONALD BLAKE. YOUR FORMER BOSS.

YOUR FORMER BOYFRIEND.

YOU SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING, MS. FOSTER?

NOT REALLY.







I REALLY AM SORRY ABOUT THAT.



I CAME AS SOON AS I HEARD THEY'D BROUGHT YOU IN.

USUALLY ANYTHING THOR RELATED GETS RUN ACROSS MY DESK FIRST SINCE I...

WELL, ACTUALLY I GUESS WE BOTH USED TO...

HE SPOKE VERY HIGHLY OF YOU. I KNOW HE CARES FOR YOU DEEPLY.



I DON'T WANT THIS TO BE WEIRD BECAUSE I REALLY RESPECT WHAT YOU DID AS A DOCTOR IN BROXTON AND I'D ACTUALLY BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU OUT FOR COFFEE SOMETIME BUT PLEASE TELL ME TO STOP TALKING IF THIS IS WEIRD BECAUSE OTHERWISE I'LL JUST KEEP TALKING UNTIL...

THE ONLY THING THAT'S WEIRD IS THAT HE'S GONE. PLEASE TELL ME YOU HAVE SOME IDEA OF WHERE THE PRINCE OF ASGARD HAS DISAPPEARED TO.



SATELLITE IMAGES FROM A FEW MONTHS AGO SHOW HIM HANGING OUT ON THE MOON. THAT WAS THE LAST RECORD WE HAVE OF HIM.

THERE ARE ENERGY READINGS THERE THAT S.H.I.E.L.D. CAN'T YET EXPLAIN. A RELATIVELY RECENT PHENOMENON, SOMETHING THAT STARTED WHEN--

AGENT SOLOMON. YOUR ROXXON WIRETAP, IT JUST GOT A HIT. SOMETHING BIG IS HAPPENING IN SWITZERLAND.

LOOKS LIKE YOUR THEORY OF A SECRET CORPORATE SUMMIT JUST MIGHT HAVE SOME TRUTH TO IT.



I'M REALLY SORRY, DR. FOSTER, BUT I'M AFRAID I'M GONNA HAVE TO...

PLEASE, ROZ, CALL ME JANE.

AND AFTER YOU'RE DONE KICKING ROXXON'S ASS...I EXPECT A CALL ABOUT THAT COFFEE.

ALFHEIM, WHERE MALEKITH HAS BEWITCHED THE QUEEN. JOTUNHEIM, WHERE LOKI HIDES BEHIND HIS FROST GIANT FATHER.

AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS IN JERSEY, WHEREVER THE HELL THE OTHER THOR HAS DISAPPEARED TO.

THERE ARE A MILLION DIFFERENT PLACES I SHOULD BE RIGHT NOW.

ASGARDIA, WHERE A SERPENT SITS ON THE THRONE AND THE CONGRESS OF WORLDS IS IN CHAOS. SWITZERLAND, WHERE ROXXON IS APPARENTLY BEING ROXXON AGAIN.

AND NONE OF THEM ARE HERE.

MCCARTHY

MEDICAL INSTITUT

MARIA WHEELLOCK
CANCER CENTR

YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW, STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT.

ME TRYING NOT TO DIE WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW. RIGHT NOW THE EARTH DOESN'T NEED A SICKLY DOCTOR FROM STATEN ISLAND.

IT NEEDS THE GODDESS OF THUNDER.

AND I NEED DIRECTIONS
TO SWITZERLAND. DOES
THIS HAMMER HAVE GPS?

BOSS JUST
TRIGGERED HIS
WATCH ALARM.
THIS IS A PRIORITY-
ONE ALERT.

COPY
THAT.

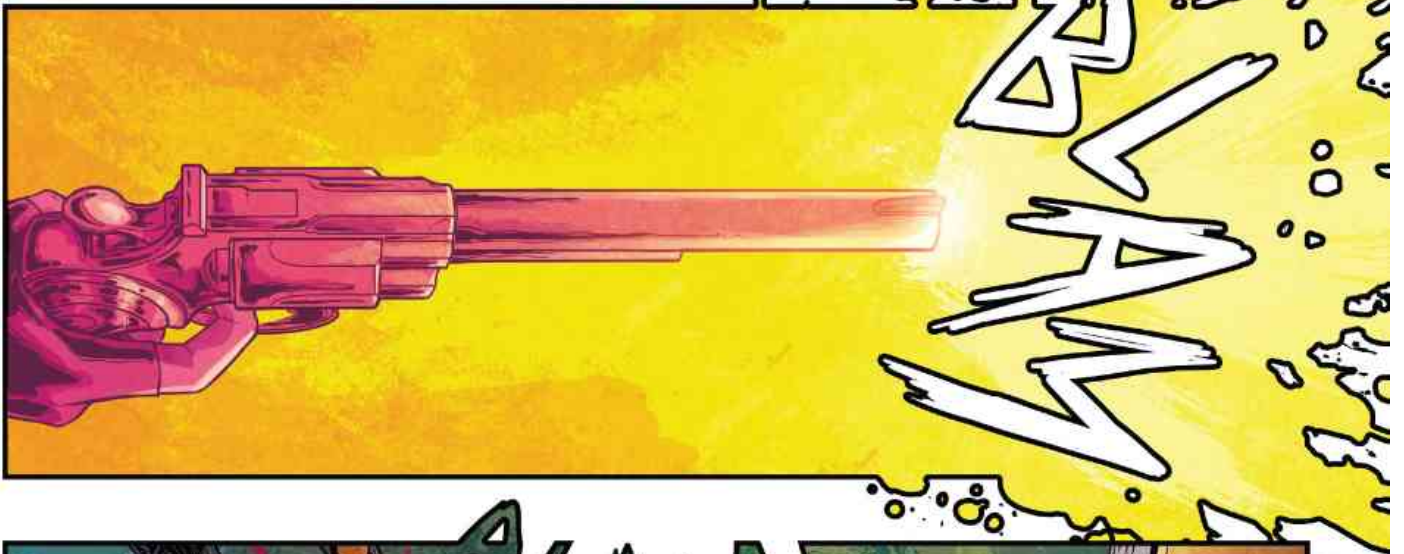
ALL ROXXON
AGENTS, GET
IN THERE!

AH, SO GOOD
TO SEE YOU AGAIN,
MA'AM. HOW MAY
WE HELP YOU
TODAY?

I BELIEVE
THIS SHOULD
COVER IT.

AH,
I'M SORRY,
BUT COVER
WHAT?

THE
DAMAGES.



A comic book panel showing Oubliette Midas, a woman with black skin, long red hair, and a black cape, holding a gold handgun. She is standing over a defeated Superman who is lying on the ground. A blue armored figure is standing in the background. The scene is filled with pink and white energy waves.

AND THE
END OF YOUR
WORLD AS YOU
KNOW IT.

OUBLIETTE MIDAS,
A.K.A. THE EXTERMINATRIX.
SOLE OWNER.
THE MIDAS FOUNDATION.

A close-up of Oubliette Midas's face, showing her black skin, red lips, and long red hair. She has a confident, slightly smug expression.

I'D CALL THIS
MEETING ADJOURNED,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
AND WHEN NEXT
YOU CONVEENE...

MAKE
SURE YOU
SAVE A SEAT
FOR ME.



 FIVE AND A HALF MINUTES LATER.



I JUST MISSED IT, COULSON.

BUT SOMETHING DEFINITELY HAPPENED HERE. THE LOBBY'S FILLED WITH DEAD ROXXON SECURITY AGENTS.

THINK I MIGHT NEED BACKUP ON THIS ONE.



DARIO AGGER OF ROXXON!

PREPARE TO ANSWER FOR YOUR CRIMES, YOU FOUL BEAST!

COULSON. BELAY THAT REQUEST.

I THINK MY BACKUP JUST ARRIVED.



